

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/977,736

Examiner

Russell S. Glass

Applicant(s)

MERKIN ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 7/16/2007 and Ex. Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are ~~102~~ 1-4, 6-10, 12-24 (RSG)
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/12/2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEFFREY A. SMITH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Bell on 8/31/2007.

In The Title:

The title of the Application is amended as follows:

--COMPUTER SYSTEM WARRANTY UPGRADE METHOD--

In The Claims:

The Claims of the Application are amended as follows:

1. A method of upgrading an existing warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
 - receiving, by a warranty processor, a warranty upgrade request from the computer system to upgrade the existing warranty, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the computer system including type, revision and serial number of each field replaceable unit (FRU) in the configuration;
 - determining, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request, said

configuration information including one or more selected from the group consisting of: warranty time remaining, reliability of components in the configuration, age of components in the configuration and replacement cost of components in the configuration.

communicating the warranty upgrade price to the computer system;

sending a warranty authorization to the computer system after acceptance of the price to upgrade the warranty, wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique identification number of the computer system; and

receiving payment, by the warranty processor, of the warranty upgrade price.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request is user-initiated.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
transmitting, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price to the computer system.
5. (cancelled).
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
generating, by the warranty processor, a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration.
7. The method of claim 5 further comprising:
transmitting, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to the computer system.
8. The method of claim 5 further comprising:

digitally signing, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty authorization.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty type information.
10. The method of claim 5 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty duration information.
11. (cancelled).
12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system receiving a warranty authorization.
13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system storing in secure storage information contained in a warranty authorization.
14. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system authenticating a digitally signed warranty authorization.
15. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system storing a warranted configuration in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the configuration of the computer system, and otherwise rejecting a warranty authorization.
16. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
the computer system comparing a warranted configuration in a warranty authorization with the configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the configuration of the computer system, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.

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17. The method of claim 14 wherein a secure processor in the computer system performs the comparing and storing step.
18. The method of claim 15 wherein the secure processor stores warranty type information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
19. The method of claim 15 wherein the secure processor stores warranty duration information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
20. The method of claim 15 wherein the secure processor stores the unique identification number from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.
21. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using the replacement cost of a component in the configuration as a factor.
22. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using a remaining amount of warranty time for a component in the configuration as a factor.
23. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using age of a component in the configuration as a factor.
24. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined using reliability data of a component in the configuration as a factor.

Remaining claims 25-57 are cancelled.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

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forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/16/2007 has been entered. Upon entry of the examiner's amendments in this office action, the finality of the last rejection should be withdrawn as the claims are considered to be currently allowable.

CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is as follows: Costello et al, (U.S. 7,266,515); Piazza et al., (U.S. 7,047,565); Schlabach et al., (U.S. 6,810,406); and *Notebook Security: IBM Unveils Industry's First Notebook PCs With Radio Frequency-based Security*, (ThinkPad 770Z and 600E notebook PCs)(Product Announcement), EDGE: Work-Group Computing Report , p NA, Feb 1 , 1999.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell S. Glass whose telephone number is 571-272-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

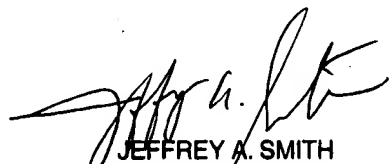
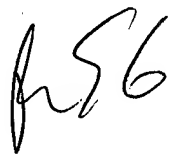
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RSG
9/12/2007



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